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**JAN 24 2007**

**OFFICE OF PETITIONS**

In re Application of :  
Sweet et al. : DECISION ON PETITION TO  
Application No. 09/684,278 : WITHDRAW HOLDING OF  
Filed: 6 October, 2000 : ABANDONMENT  
Attorney Docket No. 10541-2188 :

This is a decision on the petition filed on 7 November, 2006, to withdraw the holding of abandonment in the above-identified application.

The petition is GRANTED.

The application was held abandoned for failure to timely submit the issue fee in response to the Corrected Notice of Allowance and Fee(s) Due mailed on 3 April, 2006, which set a three (3) month statutory period for reply. Notice of Abandonment was mailed on 7 September, 2006.

Petitioner asserts that the Notice mailed on 3 April, 2006, was never received.

In the absence of any irregularity in the mailing of the non-final Office action, there is a strong presumption that the non-final Office action was properly mailed to practitioner at the address of record. This presumption may be overcome by a showing that the non-final Office action was not in fact received. The showing required to establish the failure to receive an Office communication must include a statement from the practitioner stating that the Office communication was not received by the practitioner and attesting to the fact that a search of the file jacket and docket records indicates that the Office action was not received. A copy of the docket record where the non-received Office action would have been entered had it been received and

docketed must be attached to and referenced in practitioner's statement. See "Withdrawing the Holding of Abandonment When Office Actions Are Not Received" 1156 Official Gazette 53 (November 16, 1993) and M.P.E.P. § 711.03(c). The showing outlined above may not be sufficient if there are circumstances that point to a conclusion that the non-final Office action may have been lost after receipt rather than a conclusion that the non-final Office action was lost in the mail.

A review of the record indicates that the Office action was properly mailed to petitioner at the correspondence address of record at the time of mailing. Thus, there was no irregularity in mailing the Office action on the part of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

In support of the petition, the petitioner's counsel, registered patent attorney Eric Sosanko, asserts that a search of the docket records and physical file for the application for patent was made, but that the Notice was never received. Additionally, a copy of the docket report where the Office action would have been docketed and entered had it been received has been provided and has been referenced in the practitioner's statement.

The petitioner has made a sufficient showing of nonreceipt of the Office action. Accordingly, the holding of abandonment is withdrawn.

The petition is GRANTED.

The application file is being referred to the Technology Center's Technical Support Staff for remailing of the Corrected Notice of Allowance. The period for reply will be reset from the mailing date thereof.

Telephone inquiries concerning this matter may be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3231.



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Office of Petitions